GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:928
ANSWERED ON:27.02.2006
WITHDRAWAL OF AID TO COMMUNITY IRRIGATION SCHEME
Singh Shri Ganesh

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the grants-in aid which was being provided to States for community irrigation scheme has since been withdrawn;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of farmers benefited so far therefrom;

(d) whether the Government propose to provide some grants- in-aid to encourage means of irrigation for small and marginal farmers;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the names of schemes under which grants-in-aid are being provided to farmers?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ)

(a) to (f) No, Sir. Government of India has not withdrawn any scheme providing grants-in-aid to states for community irrigation purposes. The presently ongoing schemes to encourage means for irrigation for small and marginal farmers are as follows:-

(i) Swaranjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) This scheme which has been under implementation from April, 1999 comprises of the already ongoing Million Wells Scheme (MWS) which has the objective of providing open irrigation wells free of cost to poor, small and marginal farmers who are below the poverty line and freed bounded labourers. Since inception of MWS in 1988-89 till its merger with SGSY (1997-98) a total of 12,63,090 wells have been constructed benefiting equal number of farmers. Total swarozgaris assisted till date is 63.31 lakhs. Including community irrigation for small and marginal farmers.

(ii) On farm Water Management for increasing crop production in Eastern India A Central sector scheme "On farm water management for increasing crop production in Eastern India" is under implementation to harness the abundant ground and surface water potential in the states of Assam, Arunanachal Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Manipur, Mizoram. Orissa, West Bengal, (9 districts) and Uttar Pradesh (35 districts). Through this scheme, assistance is provided to farmers for construction of dug wells, low lift irrigation points, shallow tubewells with pumpsets. A total of 59,610 shallow tubewells, 5456 dug wells and 6798 low lift irrigation points have been constructed since its inception in 2003-04. The Government does not propose any new scheme to provide grants-in-aid to encourage means of irrigation for small and marginal farmers.